

To: Marcy, Ken[Marcy.Ken@epa.gov]
Cc: Godsey, Cindi[Godsey.Cindi@epa.gov]; Reichgott, Christine[Reichgott.Christine@epa.gov]; Szerlog, Michael[Szerlog.Michael@epa.gov]; Soderlund, Dianne[Soderlund.Dianne@epa.gov]; Anderson-Carnahan, Linda[Anderson-Carnahan.Linda@epa.gov]; Allnutt, David[Allnutt.David@epa.gov]
From: Jen, Mark
Sent: Sat 7/11/2015 1:46:33 AM
Subject: FW: Heads up re the Mitigation Workshop and a change to Donlin Proposed Action (Alt 2) FW: Donlin EIS - Advanced Water Treatment - Change to Proposed Action (UNCLASSIFIED)
[Memo Donlin Corps AWT EIS Approach 07102015.pdf](#)
[H348428-00000-210-066-0002 Rev0.pdf](#)
[EN-0011178 0064 WRMP Advanced Water Treatment BGC.pdf](#)

Greetings Ken,

I want to pass along some good news that Donlin has reevaluated their proposed project to include advanced water treatment, so more water would be removed from the tailings stream, then treated and discharged. This would reduce the amount of water that would have otherwise been retained in the tailings storage facility (TSF).

I have: Personal Matters / Ex. 6 but I want to follow up with you regarding the issues you raised at the June cooperating agency meeting: (1) additional financial assurance for unexpected TSF dam failure and (2) the dry stack tailings alternative. These are some of the issues we identified in our written comments on the Preliminary Draft EIS. However, you raised a lot of eyebrows in the room, so I just want to have a conversation with you on our approach of moving these issues forward.

Donlin would like to meet with us to better understand our issues and to work out any differences prior to the release of the DEIS. So, initially we should talk and really flush out what we expect from Donlin to make this a better project and what we expect to see in the EIS. Then, we will need to determine the format for our meeting with Donlin, which may be an initial meeting, followed by a series of meetings and may include managers.

Let me know your availability to chat next week.

Thanks

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Keith POA [<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 8:38 AM
Subject: Heads up re the Mitigation Workshop and a change to Donlin Proposed Action (Alt 2) FW: Donlin EIS - Advanced Water Treatment - Change to Proposed Action (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

All,

The short version is that Donlin is incorporating a portion of Alternative 5D (Advanced Water Treatment) into their proposed action as partially defined in this email.

If you have time to review this before the mitigation workshop that would be great. If not we will have to address potential mitigation for this pending change to Donlin's proposed action after the mitigation workshop.

While this sounds problematic we have a number of incomplete and pending items gradually piling up that need resolved before the DEIS can go out the door.

USACE is working on a plan to resolve those issues and you will hear more about the impacts of that resolution when we have the details worked out. Simple version is the DEIS will go out the door when we have sufficient detail to receive functional comment from potentially affected public's.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Enos, Robert [<mailto:renos@DonlinGold.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Gordon, Keith POA; Brelsford, Taylor (taylor.brelsford@aecom.com)
Cc: 'Bruno, Jeff J (DNR)' (jeff.bruno@alaska.gov); McGrath, Patty; Weglinski, Gene; Foo, S
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin EIS - Advanced Water Treatment - Change to Proposed Action

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Keith and Taylor,

As we noted during last week's update call, Donlin has recently completed the study of Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) as an option for allowing treatment and discharge of excess water, per PDEIS Alternative 5D. Based on the results of the study, we have determined that the proposed project should be revised to incorporate AWT, and will form the basis of our Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit application. We recommend that the Corps incorporate these changes in the Draft EIS.

The AWT system that Donlin is proposing would replace the High Density Sludge (HDS) plant previously described in the proposed action of the PDEIS. The details of the AWT process are described in detail in the enclosed report, but generally consist of iron co-precipitation in a high rate clarifier (HRC), followed by greensand filtration and reverse osmosis (RO). This system satisfies the goal of producing treated water that meet discharge requirements, while also allowing treatment of excess water from the Upper Contact Water Dam (CWD), Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), and Seepage Recovery System (SRS). The ability to treat and discharge this excess water will enhance site water management and operational flexibility, as well as better control the accumulation of water in the TSF.

Attached please find three documents:

- 1. Memo summarizing our recommended approach for incorporating AWT into the EIS
- 2. Advanced Water Treatment Options Report, Hatch, July 2015
- 3. Design Memo: Water Resources Management Plan - Advanced Water Treatment, BGC Engineering, June 2015

There are several additional revised supporting documents that will follow in the next two weeks. A detailed list will be provided under separate cover.

We look forward to providing additional information as requested to support the Corps in incorporating these changes into the DEIS, and are available to provide a presentation to the Corps, AECOM, and EIS Cooperating Agencies if requested.

Best Regards,

Robert (Nick) Enos

Permitting Manager

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE